Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, where the second entity includes:

a service activation component offering the extensible set of services.

2. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the service activation component is configured to configure a router to deliver the service.

3-7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the first entity corresponds to a business partner system and the second entity corresponds to a service activation component, the service activation component provides the service to a customer associated with the business partner system, the business partner system generates the message requesting service for the customer; and

wherein the first interface module is further configured to:

authenticate the business partner system based, at least in part, on information included in the message.

9. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the first entity includes a plurality of service activation components; and

wherein the system further comprises:

a second entity locator configured to obtain information associated with the service activation components; and

wherein the second interface module is further configured to:

contact the second entity locator to identify one of the service activation components from which to request performance of the service.

10. (previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the message includes a subscriber identifier that identifies a subscriber on whose behalf the service is being requested; and

wherein the second entity locator is configured to map the subscriber identifier to the identified one of the service activation components.

11. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, further comprising:

an extension manager configured to facilitate at least one of modification of services in the extensible set of services or addition of new services to the extensible set of services offered by the second entity.

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the extensible set of services includes network services associated with communication on the Internet.

13-15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

rejecting the message if the first result indicates that the first entity is not permitted to request performance of the network service, the second result indicates that the first entity is not permitted to provide the argument, or the third result indicates that the argument is not permissible for the network service.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

configuring a router to deliver the network service to a subscriber.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

authenticating the first entity based, at least in part, on information included in the message.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the message includes a subscriber identifier that identifies a subscriber on whose behalf the requested service is being requested; and

wherein the method further comprises identifying the second entity from a plurality of second entities based, at least in part, on the subscriber identifier included in the message.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the extensible set of network services includes network services associated with communication on the Internet.

23. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a service gateway in communication with a first entity and a second entity, the service gateway comprising:

a first interface module to receive, from the first entity, a message requesting performance of a service in an extensible set of services offered by the second entity, the message including a service name that corresponds to the service and an argument that includes data useful in performing the service;

an access control module to:

make a first determination of whether the first entity is permitted to request performance of the service corresponding to the service name,

make a second determination of whether the argument is permitted to be provided by the first entity, and

make a third determination of whether the argument is permitted to be requested for the service corresponding to the service name; and

a second interface module to selectively request performance of the service [[on]] by the second entity based, at least in part, on results of the first, second, and third determinations of the access control module.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the access control module is further configured to reject the if the message first determination determines that the first entity is not permitted to request performance of the service, the second determination determines that the argument is not permitted to be provided by the first entity, or the third determination determines that the argument is not permitted to be requested for the service.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A wholesaler system that provides services to subscribers associated with a plurality of retailer systems, the wholesaler system comprising:

a service activation component configured to provide the services to the subscribers; and

a service gateway configured to act as a single point of contact between the retailer systems and the service activation component, the service gateway providing controlled access, by the retailer systems, to the services provided by the service activation component, the service gateway permitting each of the retailer systems access to a subset of the services provided by the service activation component via the controlled access,

the service gateway comprising:

a first interface module to receive, from one of the retailer systems, a message requesting performance of one of the services by the service activation component, the message including at least one argument that includes data useful for performing the one service,

an access control module to:

make a first determination of whether the one retailer system is permitted to request performance of the one service,

make a second determination of whether the at least one argument is permissible for the one retailer system, and

make a third determination of whether the at least one argument is valid for the one service, and

a second interface module to selectively interact with the service activation component based, at least in part, on the first, second, and third determinations of the access control module.

27. (original) The wholesaler system of claim 26, wherein the services provided by the service activation component include network services.

28. (original) The wholesaler system of claim 26, wherein the services provided by the service activation component include an extensible set of services.

29. (original) The wholesaler system of claim 26, wherein the service gateway and the service activation component in combination provide a common interface via which the retailer systems request one or more of the services provided by the service activation component, the combination exposing subsets of the common interface to each of the retailer systems by controlling access to the services by the retailer systems.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) A method performed in a network that includes a service gateway in communication with a first entity and a second entity, the method comprising:

receiving, from the first entity, a message requesting performance of a network service of an extensible set of network services offered by the second entity, the message including a service name that corresponds to the network service and an argument that includes data useful in performing the network service;

generating a first result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the first entity is permitted to request performance of the network service corresponding to the service name;

generating a second result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the first entity is permitted to provide the argument;

generating a third result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the argument is permissible for the network service corresponding to the service name; and

selectively requesting performance of the network service by the second entity based, at least in part, on the first, second, and third results.

32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, where the second interface module is configured to request performance of the service when the first determination determines that the first entity is permitted to request performance of the service, the second determination determines that the argument is permitted to be provided by the first entity, and the third determination determines that the argument is permitted to be requested for the service.

34. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 31, where selectively requesting performance of the network service includes:

requesting performance of the network service when the first result indicates that the first entity is permitted to request performance of the network service, the second result indicates that the first entity is permitted to provide the argument, and the third result indicates that the argument is permissible for the network service.

35. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

means for receiving, from a requestor, a message requesting performance of one of a plurality of network services offered by a server, the message including an argument that includes data useful in performing the one network service;

means for performing a first determination of whether the requestor is permitted to request performance of the one network service;

means for performing a second determination of whether the ~~first entity~~ requestor is permitted to provide the argument;

means for performing a third determination of whether the argument is permissible for the one network service; and

means for requesting performance of the one network service by the server based, at least in part, on the first, second, and third determinations.